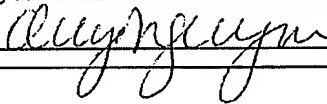


I hereby certify that this correspondence is being electronically transmitted to the USPTO on the date shown below.

Date: August 13, 2007

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

 (Quyen Nguyen)

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Application No.: 10/798,465  
Confirmation No.: 6106  
Filing Date: March 11, 2004  
Inventor(s): Michael D. LAUFER et al.  
Title: SURGICAL FASTENER  
Examiner: G. Dawson  
Group Art Unit: 3731

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**RESPONSE TO FINAL OFFICE ACTION**

Mail Stop AF  
Commissioner for Patent  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This is in response to the final Office Action dated February 12, 2007 for which a response was due May 12, 2007. Filed herewith is a Petition and fee for a three-month extension of time, thereby extending the deadline for response to August 12, 2007 which fell on a Sunday. Accordingly, this response is timely filed. Reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims, as amended, in light of the Remarks presented herein are respectfully requested.

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks** begin on page 7 of this paper.